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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire comprising  
a tread portion,  
a pair of sidewall portions,  
a pair of bead portions each with a bead core and a bead apex  
therein,  
a carcass comprising a ply of cords extending between the  
bead portions through the tread portion and sidewall portions and  
turned up around the bead core in each said bead portion from the  
inside to the outside of the tire so as to form a pair of turned  
up portions and a main portion therebetween,  
said bead apex made of hard rubber disposed between the main  
portion and turned up portion and extending radially outwards from  
the bead core, a length (LA) of the bead apex between the radially  
inner end and radially outer end thereof being in a range of from  
0.1 to 0.25 times the section height (H) of the tire,  
a reinforcing cord layer composed of a single ply of cords  
disposed along the axially inside of each said turned up portion,  
the reinforcing cord layer having a radially outer end (FU) which  
is positioned radially outside the radially outer end (BU) of the  
bead apex but radially inside the maximum tire section width point  
(M), and a radially inner end (FD) which is positioned radially  
outside the radially outer end of the bead core but radially

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a) <sup>SWB</sup>  
inside the radially outer end (BU) of the bead apex so that the reinforcing cord layer comprises a main portion disposed between the bead apex and carcass ply turned up portion, and a protruding portion protruding radially outwardly from the radially outer end (BU) of the bead apex, and the protruding portion adjoins the carcass ply main portion and turned up portion to form a triangle cord arrangement,

a length (LB) of the reinforcing cord layer between the radially inner end and the radially outer end thereof being in a range of from 1.2 to 2.0 times said length (LA) of the bead apex,

a length (alpha) of the protruding portion being in a range of not less than 10.0 mm,

the sidewall portions having a minimum thickness (Wmin) being in a range of not more than 0.5 times a maximum thickness (Wmax) of a region where the reinforcing cord layer exists, wherein said minimum thickness (Wmin) occurs between the radially outer end (FU) of the reinforcing cord layer and the maximum tire section width point (M).

2. (Original) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1 or 2, wherein

the carcass is composed of a single ply of radially arranged cords.

3. (Cancelled)

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4. (Currently Amended) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1 or 2 wherein

a radial distance (K) of the radially inner end (FD) of the reinforcing cord layer from the radially outer end ~~(BU)~~ (BD) of the bead core is set in a range of from 0.1 to 0.5 times the length (LA) of the bead apex.

5. (Original) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein

the ratio (LB/LA) of the length (LB) of the reinforcing cord layer and the length (LA) of the bead apex is in a range of not less than 1.5 but not more than 1.8.

6. (Currently Amended) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein

said maximum thickness (Wmax) occurs near the radially outer end (BU) of the bead apex, and

~~said minimum thickness (Wmin) occurs between the radially outer end (FU) of the reinforcing cord layer and the maximum tire section width point (M).~~